

Next Meeting

Manhattan Bread & Bagel
1812 N. Sepulveda Boulevard
Manhattan Beach
Wednesday, October 23
7:30 PM

Join us for phone banking to support Democratic candidates for Hermosa Beach city council and school board who oppose oil drilling in Hermosa. Bring a mobile phone and help keep Hermosa hermosa!

facts. Every conversation turns into point-counterpoint and "he said she said." If the Republicans say the world is flat, the next news headline reads "Shape of the world, two opinions."

Where is our sense of common decency today? Have we no sense of moral authority? After long last, have we lost our ability to tell right from wrong? I am no authoritarian, but I do think we need some kind of moral authorities.

Each one of us should play a role calling out the Republican right-wing. We need to expose them for the extremists they are. Call and write your local news, let them know you expect them to be a voice of reason in this national dialogue, and that you

are sick and tired of the Republicans not being held responsible for our failed government. Tell your friends and neighbors how you feel. I firmly believe in the saying "All that's required for bad people to succeed is for good people to do nothing."

Our upcoming meeting

We will be doing a phone bank for our local endorsed candidates. Please bring your cell phone or be willing to help us in this basic political process. This is where our organization needs to step up in the political process. We need to win elections, or our political views are without meaning. Please join us.

Tony Hale

President's Message

Have you no sense of decency, sir? At long last, have you left no sense of decency?

Back in 1954, during the Army-McCarthy hearings, one man could speak on moral principle and help a whole nation introspect into its own digressions. That man was only counsel for the United States Army, a Mr. Joseph N. Welch, but he stood up to the Tea Party of his day in the form of Senator Joseph McCarthy.

During that famous confrontation in the Army-McCarthy hearings, Welch uttered those words that would create a tipping point for the nation.

"Have you no sense of decency, sir? At long last, have you left no sense of decency?"

The right wing of the Republican Party has declared total war on the President of the United States and the Democratic Party. This war is beyond the pale of partisan conflict, it is a war on common sense, science and our best nature.

Our public debate has degenerated into the equivalent of a demolition derby, where it is almost impossible to come to any reasonable agreement on the most basic

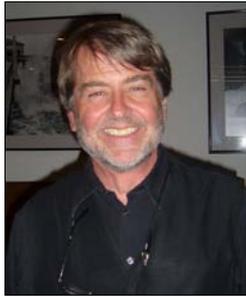


Edna Murphy and Bob Monzingo helped staff the Beach Cities Democrats booth at the Manhattan Beach Hometown Fair October 5 and 6. Our booth was either first or last in line, depending on where you entered; but we did have some interested visitors who registered to vote or took membership applications. The life-size Barack Obama cutout always draws attention.

Beach Cities Green

By Dency Nelson

We have an election coming up in Hermosa Beach on Tuesday, November 5. There are three City Council



seats and three School Board seats up for grabs, representing a possible majority vote on every issue in both bodies. In my 30 years as a resident and homeowner in Hermosa Beach, there has never been, in my opinion, a more critical council and school board election.

This council and this school board will be responsible for decisions that will shape our community for decades, if not forever. There are several issues that could be cited to prove my point, but in that this is an "environmental" column, and since space is limited, let me focus on one question that was directed to the candidates at recent candidate forums. At the October 2 Hermosa Beach City Council Candidate Forum sponsored by the HB Neighborhood Association, I had the opportunity to pose to the six participating candidates a question that pretty much asked, "Do you believe that the crisis of climate change is real, and that human beings have added to that crisis, and if so, what role does our community have in trying to mitigate that crisis?" (Incumbent candidate Kit Bobko did not participate. He has consistently refused to participate in the Neighborhood Association-sponsored debates.) The answers from the candidates were, for the most part, not surprising and provide guidance for casting our ballots. The following are sound bites [snippets?] taken from their answers, combined with a bit of editorializing on my part:

Hany Fangary (DEM) – Said emphatically, yes, climate change is real, and human beings have contributed to the problem. And, yes, the community has a responsibility to provide incentives and information to help businesses and home-

owners make energy-saving decisions with their construction. Cited the Fortunos' "Green Idea House" and the opportunity for the City of Hermosa Beach to brand the city as the "Green Idea City."

Greg Savelli (REP) – Immediately cited a recent United Nations report stating that 95% of the planet's scientists claim climate change is real. Agrees that it is probably true. Feels that the city should provide incentives for energy savings. (He at first misrepresented the "Million Rooftops" campaign – the California campaign to install rooftop solar — by calling it the "Thousand Rooftops" campaign. Apparently, it is not something that is in our former Police Chief's everyday vocabulary!) Doesn't want to "reach into people's pockets" to make this happen. Wants to encourage but not mandate or regulate. Made a joke about having to buy plastic bags to pick up dog poop now that Vons doesn't give him those bags for free.

Nanette Barragan (DEM) – Responded yes, and everyone has a role. City government's role is to provide bike- and pedestrian-friendly streets, bike racks, etc.; should encourage "solar paneling" on our buildings. She recognizes and acknowledged the economic wisdom of energy savings, and talked about calling upon the resource of innovators and former Green Task Force members within the community to guide us in new directions.

John Bowler (NPP) – Immediately questioned why we as a community should be "challenged" to prove our commitment to "conservationism." Says that as a beach culture we've been doing the right things far longer than anywhere and that we have been raised to do the right things toward "conservation." (Old words, old ideas — doesn't get it, in my opinion.) Went on to say that he was "pretty convinced" that climate change was real, but also added "some recent reports" show that the models showing the connection to climate change might not be "shaping up." Says that doesn't make him a "denier," but he has some questions. Made fun of what impact our little commu-

nity could have by lowering our carbon footprint to zero, getting "all of our electricity from the Vetter Windmill," and said that businesses and the community shouldn't have to "justify [their] carbon footprint." Definitely would not ever mandate subsidizing energy-savings projects "for others."

Jeff Duclos (DEM) – "Sea Level Rise, Fact! Increased Storm Intensity, Fact! Coastal Subsidence, Fact!" Went on to cite the success of the Electric Vehicle Charging Stations that the city wisely installed 1 ½ years ago, and how they have brought business to downtown and have encouraged increased electric vehicle sales. Said that if the City of Hermosa Beach were to convert its vehicle fleet to electric there would be a \$60,000-per-year savings from fuel costs alone. He also said that Hermosa Beach was in the best position to "become a magnet for green businesses and green-tech jobs, etc. (A clear understanding of the economic and environmental partnership!)"

Carolyn Petty (REP) – Yes, re: climate change being real. But spent most of her brief reply saying how wonderful it is that, as opposed to 30 years ago, we now have an awareness of these things. Also said that buildings like our city hall that are nearing the end of their life could be replaced with "smart, environmentally sound" buildings. Finished by saying that she was "in agreement." (Vague and evasive, like most of her campaign when confronting the general public and not her conservative base.)

I warned you about the editorializing, right? My prerogative as the owner of this column, but more importantly, as someone who is attending all of the candidate forums and who has interviewed neighbors who have been approached by the candidates. I am getting a pretty clear picture that my early selections, and our endorsement, of the three Democrats in this race are the correct ones. Same goes for the two Democrats in our Hermosa Beach School Board race. If you live in Hermosa Beach, vote for the following. If

(Continued on page 3)

(Green, Continued from page 2)

you have the time, whether you are a Hermosa Beach resident or not, please consider helping them in their campaigns.

For Hermosa Beach City Council:
Councilman Jeff Duclos, Nanette Barragan and Hany Fangary.

For Hermosa Beach School Board:
Maggie Bove-LaMonica and Dr. Mary Campbell.

September Recap

President Tony Hale introduced the officers and welcomed new guests. He shared a letter from Congressman Henry Waxman congratulating this term's officers of the BCDC.

President's Report

Tony opened with a recap on the minimum wage issue. The U.S. has among the lowest minimum wages among major industrialized countries, and has experienced a loss in purchasing power over time. Governor Brown just signed legislation increasing the minimum wage in California to \$10 by 2016.

Tony also mentioned attempts in Congress to limit access to healthcare through the Affordable Care Act.

Vice President's Report

VP Dency Nelson reminded us of the important Hermosa Beach city council and school board elections coming up on November 5. We have three Democrats running for city council and two Democrats running for school board, including Mary Campbell, newly registered as a Democrat. Let's defeat Kit Bobko, keep Jeff Duclos, and elect Nannette Barragan and Hany Fangary!

Dency also expressed his disappointment regarding the passage of SB4, Fran Pavley's bill, and asked that we read his fuller evaluation in his Beach Cities Green column in our September newsletter (<http://www.lafn.org/politics/bcdc/bcdc2013-09.pdf>).

Secretary's Report

Kathryn Campbell submitted minutes



Nanette Barragan, our endorsed candidate for Hermosa Beach City Council

from the August meeting, which were approved.

Treasurer's Report

Edna Murphy reported the following activity:

Federal account: starting balance of \$1698 + \$50 (2 new memberships) = ending balance of \$1748.

State account: starting balance of \$73 - \$15 (bank fees) = ending balance of \$58.

There were no reports from elected officials this month.

Mary Campbell, Candidate for Hermosa Beach School Board

Mary introduced herself to the attendees and stated that she has spent her 25-year career in education. She's a former teacher who became an administrator. Mary works at USC, helping to support recruiting and staff professional development. She has two Masters degrees (Psychology and Organizational Psychology), and a Doctorate in Organizational Psychology. She also teaches leadership classes and is "passionate" about developing a 21st Century Curriculum, one example of which is the Common Core State Standards. She is interested in fostering critical thinking and innovative fundraising to support schools and education.



Ken Petruilis, an attorney and longtime member, gave an informative presentation on the Rule of Law at our September meeting.

While she was formerly a Decline to State and only recently registered as a Democrat, Mary worked to support President Obama and considers herself "wildly liberal." She favors marriage equality and immigration reform. She is against oil drilling in Hermosa, and helped found "Keep Hermosa Hermosa."

A motion was made and seconded to endorse Mary Campbell and passed unanimously.

Program: The Rule of Law

Ken Petruilis spoke on the importance of the rule of law and its role in our democracy. In Ken's opinion, the rule of law is what makes America exceptional. In Marbury vs. Madison in 1803, Supreme Court Justice Marshall ruled against President Thomas Jefferson, proving early in our history that no one is above the law. Independent judicial review is key. The rule of law is a process with five essential elements: fair access, fair courts, fair laws, fair administration, and subjecting everyone, including the president, to the law.

Ken discussed specifics of the Trayvon Martin case, in which evidence was not

(Continued on page 4)

Beach Cities Democrats



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(Rule, continued from page 3)

preserved, and Zimmerman appears to have been treated preferentially. Ken shared his "rule of law scorecard." He also explained and expanded upon various Stand Your Ground laws.

Further group discussion ensued regarding the impact of regulations on personal freedom, consumer arbitration, court costs, online Terms & Conditions that limit your rights, tort reform and other current legal issues.

Ken initiated the Beverly Hills Bar Foundation's competition each year on the rule of law for law students, which offers cash prizes to winners. For more information visit: <http://www.bhba.org/foundation/Rule-of-Law.htm>.

Nanette Barragan, Candidate for Hermosa Beach City Council

Nanette gave a campaign update, beginning with thanking us for our endorsement. She said that she's walking every weekend and asked for campaign volunteer support.

Upcoming Event Dates & Announcements

- The 66th Assembly District Democratic Council is having a picnic at Hesse Park, RPV on September 29, 1PM to 3PM. Contact Lisa Power for more information: lisa@mrbenson.com
- Manhattan Beach Hometown Fair October 5th & 6th: We need your help to make it happen! Contact Tony Hale at 310 465-6188 to volunteer.
- Carolyn Waters reminded us that the annual LACDP Roosevelt Dinner will be held on Sunday October 20. Connie Sullivan and Tim Goodrich are being honored from the 66th. Tickets are available on ActBlue.com. Let LACDP know where you would like to be seated under the "Special Requirements" section (with BCD or the 66th) and also email Carolyn at cwaters42@gmail.com or call her at 310-863-0712 so she can help coordinate.
- Lori Geittmann said that she overheard

discussion at the Redondo Beach Parks & Rec about the possibility of restarting oil drilling and introducing fracking in Redondo Beach. Let's all keep alert for any further information on this issue.

- On Monday, September 30, the League of Women Voters will moderate a forum for the Hermosa Beach School Board candidates. On Tuesday, 10/1, there will also be a swearing in of new police chief Sharon Papa.



The President Goes Hawaiian. Here is Tony Hale gamely manning the Hometown Fair booth in a stunning, locally made Hawaiian hat.